

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D. C.

3 November 1948

25X1 [redacted]
Assistant Chief, Mediterranean Bureau
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

25X1 [redacted] Egypt

Your note of 5 October is a good peg for the letter I've been wanting to write you.

25X1 The Okinawa typhoon did real damage to installations on the island -- [redacted] heard estimates many times the reported \$10 million -- but our prospective housing site has enough natural protection that no harm was done buildings in the area. Operations buildings will be well anchored. Construction on the project will not begin until next month.

25X1 Your proposed plan for transfer of operations sounds sensible. I hope you can do it somewhere nearly as smoothly as [redacted] did on the West Coast.

25X1 I hope to send you and [redacted] within the next week a revised tentative monitoring schedule based upon coverage agreements with Frost. The revision is not radical, but Frost's present plan is to reduce his staff in Mediterranean languages to one or two each, requesting therefore that we assume coverage of Moscow in Albanian, Arabic, Bulgarian, Greek, Rumanian, Serbo-Croat, Slovene, Turkish and Yiddish, as well as of foreign-language services of the Eastern European countries for whose home services we are assuming responsibility. If this agreement is not changed at the next semi-annual conference, it will mean some increase in linguist staff for Cyprus; and a critical question is how the wordage limitation on the C&W file can be raised to provide for it. The assignment of Moscow, except in Albanian, and Slovene if available, to Cyprus is particularly questionable.

25X1 In any case, you can plan the transfer on the basis of present coverage, except as we make spot changes in the meantime, and leave the development of new coverage and assumption of present BBC coverage, in that order, until the new station is on its feet.

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25X1 I do not see any way to send you a cruising man at this time. Frost has agreed, however, to send someone from his Special Listening Section down for six months while you are getting started on Cyprus. By the end of that period we should have oriented and available a promising new man who is coming on duty with [] this week. Frost also wants to send an editor and possibly a Russian monitor down on temporary duty.

You have done well in broadening coverage, in reducing time lag, in coordinating with BBC, in developing the cue procedure and in standardizing style and form, as well as in rehabilitating the Bureau administratively. Improvement in the quality of cabled broadcast copy is less discernible. Aside from the fact that retraining of linguists and editors is a long-term job, I suspect that the multiple relay and repunching have a good deal to do with the arrival of copy here in such condition that report editors frequently go to some length to avoid using it. I will make a study of a batch of it to see whether any of the garbling can be tracked down and eliminated. We have had preposterous difficulty with the Signals circuits from Frankfurt for the past three months, but are about to get the use of a new London-New York circuit which should clear up that leg and make the problem manageable.

It is felt here and in London more and more emphatically that the most important mission of the new Mediterranean Bureau will be coverage of USSR regionals. I hope that in point of reception, selection, processing and transmission it will live up to expectations.

25X1 We are very happy with [] who continues to perform flawlessly. I am still less than half through with the rebuilding job, though.

My regards to Helen and all.

Sincerely,

25X1 []

25X1 cc: []

PKE:hmq

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